

Donald Abelson
Chief of the International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Abelson:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration on behalf of the Executive Branch Agencies, has approved the release of one additional Preliminary Executive Branch (NTIA) View considering federal agency inputs toward the development of U.S. Preliminary Views for WRC-2003. The enclosure contains a view which addresses WRC-2003 agenda item 1.3; it is forwarded for review by your WRC-2003 Advisory Committee. Karl Nebbia from my staff will contact Julie Garcia and reconcile any differences.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed May 10, 2001)
William T. Hatch
Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management

Enclosure

Radio Conference Subcommittee (RCS)

Preparation for ITU Radiocommunication Conferences

DRAFT PRELIMINARY VIEW FOR WRC-03

WRC-2003 Agenda Item 1.3: to consider identification of globally/regionally harmonized bands, to the extent practicable, for the implementation of future advanced solutions to meet the needs of public protection agencies, including those dealing with emergency situations and disaster relief, and to make regulatory provisions, as necessary, taking into account Resolution 645 (WRC 2000);

ISSUE: The primary issues within this agenda item are: Do the issues raised in **Resolution 645 (WRC 2000)** require global, regional or sub-regional harmonization of spectrum? If so, what spectrum is required to satisfy the global/regional or sub-regional harmonization needs of public protection and disaster relief? If some harmonization would be beneficial, what are the appropriate mechanisms for facilitating it?

BACKGROUND: WRC-2000 established agenda item 1.3 to consider identification of globally/regionally harmonized bands, to the extent practicable, for implementation of future advanced solutions to meet the needs of public protection agencies, including those dealing with emergency situations and disaster relief, and to make regulatory provisions, as necessary. WP8A was designated as having responsibility to undertake appropriate studies related to public protection and disaster relief and report the results of these studies to WRC-03. In order to help facilitate the study of agenda item 1.3, WP8A circulated a questionnaire to gather requirements for public protection and disaster relief communications.

Resolution 645 does not ask for a specific Recommendation, Resolution, or a Report, however; Resolution 645 does request the development of a draft resolution identifying the technical and operational basis for cross-border circulation.

U.S. VIEW: The United States recognizes the importance of having public protection and disaster relief communications and as in the past, the United States will always be ready and willing to deploy, at a moment's notice, resources to assist countries requiring disaster relief assistance. However, the United States is not convinced that there is a need for nor is there any benefit derived from globally/regionally harmonized frequency bands for public protection and disaster relief. The United States believes that before identifying frequency bands that could be used on a global/regional basis by administrations intending to implement future solutions for public protection and disaster relief communications, comprehensive and adequate studies need to be completed that consider the following:

- **Regulatory.** WP8A has not determined what regulatory or operational requirements (i.e. applications, services, and users, etc.) are needed for global/regional harmonization of spectrum. The United States opposes specific identification in the Radio Regulations without first completely exploring all services and applications. In addition, the United States believes that before services and applications can be identified, user requirements must be identified. However, ultimately a key is what requirements need to be harmonized.
- **Technology.** Consideration should be given to achieving the goal of harmonized frequency bands through existing technology such as IMT 2000. As new technologies are being introduced, to what extent will the goals of harmonization be achieved rather than

harmonizing frequency bands? As an example, software defined radios will be able to carry out radio functions in software rather than hardware. The use of special mode and advanced features such as over-the-air reconfiguration could improve emergency readiness and obviate the need for separate radios for emergency and disaster situations. The United States believes further study is needed on new technologies as it relates directly to harmonization of frequency bands for public protection and disaster relief.

- **Frequency Bands.** The United States believes it is premature to identify frequency bands at WRC 2003. Any such bands that can be identified should be listed in a Handbook, ITU-R Report, an ITU-R Recommendation, or an ITU-R Resolution. The United States also sees no benefit to ITU administrations in identifying bands used for traditional public protection functions. With respect to these functions, administrations have already made significant investments and though they may not necessarily be harmonized globally, identification of such bands would only lead to the impression that countries needed to buy new equipment to move into the identified bands. This is an action that few could afford. If such an impression is not given then no harmonization is actually reached.
 - **Cross Border Circulation.** The United States would consider implementing a resolution identifying the technical and operational basis for global cross-border circulation of radiocommunication equipment in emergency and disaster relief situations at WRC-2003. The United States believes that this could be accomplished by amending **Resolution 644 (Rev. WRC 2000)**. (May 7, 2001)
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